

CLAIMS:

1. (Canceled) A telescoping golf club, comprising:

a club head;

a telescoping club shaft comprising at least two telescoping shaft segments and having a shaft proximal end and a shaft distal end connected to said club head.

1 2. (Canceled) The telescoping golf club of claim 1,
2 additionally comprising a conventional handle grip covering at
3 least a portion of said shaft proximal end.

1 3. (Canceled) A telescoping golf club, comprising:

2 a tubular proximal shaft segment;

3 a tubular intermediate shaft segment telescopically and
4 slidably fitting into said proximal shaft segment;

5 a distal shaft segment telescopically and slidably fitting
6 into said intermediate shaft segment and comprising a shaft distal
7 end;

8 a club head fastened to said shaft distal end;

9 and shaft segment stop means preventing said intermediate
10 shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said proximal shaft
11 segment and preventing said distal shaft segment from sliding
12 entirely out of said intermediate shaft segment.

4. (Canceled) The telescoping golf club of claim 3,

wherein said proximal shaft segment and said intermediate shaft segment each have an interior surface and wherein said intermediate shaft segment and said distal shaft segment each have an exterior surface;

and wherein said shaft segment stop means comprises:

a first extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment, said first extension stop collar having an interior diameter sized such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidably inside said first extension stop collar and telescopically within said proximal shaft segment;

a second extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment, said second extension stop collar having an interior diameter sized such that said distal shaft segment fits slidably inside said second extension stop collar and telescopically within said intermediate shaft segment;

a first retraction stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment;

a second retraction stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment;

and a first dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface of said intermediate shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such that said proximal shaft segment fits slidably around and over said second dual abutment collar;

a second dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface of said distal shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such

1 that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidably around and over
2 said first dual abutment collar;

3 such that said first retraction stop collar abuts said first
4 dual abutment collar and said second retraction stop collar
5 simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment collar upon full
6 telescopic retraction of said club shaft, and such that said first
7 extension stop collar abuts said first dual abutment collar and
8 said second extension stop collar simultaneously abuts said second
9 dual abutment collar upon full telescopic extension of said club
10 shaft.

1 5. (Canceled) The telescoping golf club of claim 4, wherein
2 said first dual abutment collar is located adjacent to the proximal
3 end of said intermediate shaft segment and wherein said second dual
4 abutment collar is located adjacent to the proximal end of said
5 distal shaft segment;

6 and wherein said first extension stop collar is located
7 adjacent to the distal end of said intermediate shaft segment and
8 wherein said second extension stop collar is located adjacent to
9 the distal end of said distal shaft segment.

1 6. (Currently Amended) ~~The telescoping golf club of claim 4,~~

2 A telescoping golf club, comprising:

3 a tubular proximal shaft segment;

4 a tubular intermediate shaft segment telescopically and
5 slidingly fitting into said proximal shaft segment;

6 a distal shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting
7 into said intermediate shaft segment and comprising a shaft distal
8 end;

9 a club head fastened to said shaft distal end;

10 and shaft segment stop means preventing said intermediate
11 shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said proximal shaft
12 segment and preventing said distal shaft segment from sliding
13 entirely out of said intermediate shaft segment;

14 wherein said proximal shaft segment and said intermediate
15 shaft segment each have an interior surface and wherein said
16 intermediate shaft segment and said distal shaft segment each have
17 an exterior surface;

18 and wherein said shaft segment stop means comprises:

19 a first extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface
20 of said proximal shaft segment, said first extension stop collar
21 having an interior diameter sized such that said intermediate shaft
22 segment fits slidingly inside said first extension stop collar and
23 telescopingly within said proximal shaft segment;

24 a second extension stop collar fastened to the interior
25 surface of said intermediate shaft segment, said second extension
26 stop collar having an interior diameter sized such that said distal

1 shaft segment fits slidingly inside said second extension stop
2 collar and telescopingly within said intermediate shaft segment;

3 a first retraction stop collar fastened to the interior
4 surface of said proximal shaft segment;

5 a second retraction stop collar fastened to the interior
6 surface of said intermediate shaft segment;

7 and a first dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior
8 surface of said intermediate shaft segment and sized in exterior
9 diameter such that said proximal shaft segment fits slidingly
10 around and over said second dual abutment collar;

11 a second dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface
12 of said distal shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such
13 that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidingly around and over
14 said first dual abutment collar;

15 such that said first retraction stop collar abuts said first
16 dual abutment collar and said second retraction stop collar
17 simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment collar upon full
18 telescopic retraction of said club shaft, and such that said first
19 extension stop collar abuts said first dual abutment collar and
20 said second extension stop collar simultaneously abuts said second
21 dual abutment collar upon full telescopic extension of said club
22 shaft;

wherein said first and second retraction stop collars each
comprise a circumferential collar distal edge divided into a collar
locking notch and a collar locking projection;

and wherein said first and second dual abutment collars each

comprise a circumferential collar proximal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

such that interlocking of collar locking notches and collar locking projections causes said retraction stop collars and said dual abutment collars to function to prevent axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

7. (Currently Amended) The telescoping golf club of claim 6, wherein said first and second extension stop collars each comprise a circumferential collar ~~distal~~ proximal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

and wherein said first and second dual abutment collars each comprise a circumferential collar distal edge divided into a collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

such that interlocking of collar locking notches and collar locking projections causes said extension stop collars and said dual abutment collars to function to prevent axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

1 8. (Original) The telescoping golf club of claim 6, wherein
2 said locking projections comprise projection outward ends and
3 rounded projection centering corners at said projection outward
4 ends, which are also the outward corners of adjacent said notches,
5 such that as a projection is advanced toward an opposing notch
6 and yet is laterally offset a certain distance from the notch, the
7 rounded projection centering corners of opposing locking
8 projections contact each other and cause the locking projections to
9 advance progressively into, and slide laterally toward a position
10 centered over the opposing notch and, when centered, the projection
11 enters and slides fully into the notch.

12 9. (Original) The telescoping golf club of claim 6, wherein
13 each said collar locking notch and each said collar locking
14 projection constitutes substantially 180 degrees of the given
15 circumferential collar distal edge.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The telescoping golf club of claim ~~4~~
2 6, wherein said club head comprises a club head bore into which
3 said club shaft proximal end is fitted and secured.

1 11. (Currently Amended) A telescoping shaft, comprising:
2 a tubular proximal shaft segment;
3 a tubular intermediate shaft segment telescopically and
4 slidingly fitting into said proximal shaft segment;
5 a distal shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting
6 into said intermediate shaft segment and comprising a shaft distal
7 end;
8 and shaft segment stop means preventing said intermediate
9 shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said proximal shaft
10 segment and preventing said distal shaft segment from sliding
11 entirely out of said intermediate shaft segment;
12 wherein said proximal shaft segment and said intermediate
13 shaft segment each have an interior surface and wherein said
14 intermediate shaft segment and said distal shaft segment each have
15 an exterior surface;
16 and wherein said shaft segment stop means comprises:
a first extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface of
said proximal shaft segment, said first extension stop collar
having an interior diameter sized such that said intermediate shaft
segment fits slidingly inside said first extension stop collar and
telescopingly within said proximal shaft segment; a second
extension stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said
intermediate shaft segment, said second extension stop collar
having an interior diameter sized such that said distal shaft
segment fits slidingly inside said second extension stop collar and
telescopingly within said intermediate shaft segment; a first

retraction stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment; a second retraction stop collar fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment; and a first dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface of said intermediate shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such that said proximal shaft segment fits slidingly around and over said second dual abutment collar; a second dual abutment collar fastened to the exterior surface of said distal shaft segment and sized in exterior diameter such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidingly around and over said first dual abutment collar; such that said first retraction stop collar abuts said first dual abutment collar and said second retraction stop collar simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment collar upon full telescopic retraction of said shaft, and such that said first extension stop collar abuts said first dual abutment collar and said second extension stop collar simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment collar upon full telescopic extension of said shaft;

wherein said first and second retraction stop collars and said first and second dual abutment collars comprise relative rotation stop means preventing relative axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The telescoping shaft of claim 11,
2 wherein said first dual abutment collar is located adjacent to the
3 proximal end of said intermediate shaft segment and wherein said
4 second dual abutment collar is located adjacent to the proximal end
5 of said distal shaft segment;

6 ~~and wherein said first extension stop collar is located~~
7 ~~adjacent to the distal end of said intermediate shaft segment and~~
8 ~~wherein said second extension stop collar is located adjacent to~~
9 ~~the distal end of said distal shaft segment~~

10 and wherein said first extension stop collar is located
11 adjacent to the distal end of said proximal shaft segment and
12 wherein said second extension stop collar is located adjacent to
13 the distal end of said intermediate shaft segment.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The telescoping shaft of claim 11,
2 wherein said first and second retraction stop collars each
3 comprise a circumferential collar distal edge, and wherein said
4 relative rotation stop means comprises divisions of said
5 circumferential collar distal edges into divided into a collar
6 locking notch and a collar locking projection;

7 and wherein said first and second dual abutment collars each
8 comprise a circumferential collar proximal edge divided into a
9 collar locking notch and a collar locking projection;

10 such that interlocking of collar locking notches and collar
11 locking projections causes said retraction stop collars and said
12 dual abutment collars to function to prevent axial rotation of the

1 respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

2 14. (Currently Amended) The telescoping shaft of claim 13,
3 wherein said first and second extension stop collars each comprise
4 a circumferential collar ~~distal~~ proximal edge divided into a collar
5 locking notch and a collar locking projection;

6 and wherein said first and second dual abutment collars each
7 comprise a circumferential collar distal edge divided into a collar
8 locking notch and a collar locking projection;

9 such that interlocking of collar locking notches and collar
10 locking projections causes said extension stop collars and said
11 dual abutment collars to function to prevent axial rotation of the
12 respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

13 15. (Original) The telescoping shaft of claim 13, wherein said
14 locking projections comprise projection outward ends and rounded
15 projection centering corners at said projection outward ends, which
16 are also the outward corners of adjacent said notches,

17 such that as a projection is advanced toward an opposing notch
18 and yet is laterally offset a certain distance from the notch, the
19 rounded projection centering corners of opposing locking
20 projections contact each other and cause the locking projections to
21 advance progressively into, and slide laterally toward a position
22 centered over the opposing notch and, when centered, the projection
23 enters and slides fully into the notch.

1 16. (Original) The telescoping shaft of claim 13, wherein each
2 said collar locking notch and each said collar locking projection
3 constitutes substantially 180 degrees of the given circumferential
4 collar distal edge.

 17. (New) A telescoping golf club, comprising:
 a tubular proximal shaft segment;
 a tubular intermediate shaft segment telescopically and
slidingly fitting into said proximal shaft segment;
 a distal shaft segment telescopically and slidingly fitting
into said intermediate shaft segment and comprising a shaft distal
end;
 and shaft segment stop means preventing said intermediate
shaft segment from sliding entirely out of said proximal shaft
segment and preventing said distal shaft segment from sliding
entirely out of said intermediate shaft segment;
 wherein said proximal shaft segment and said intermediate
shaft segment each have an interior surface and wherein said
intermediate shaft segment and said distal shaft segment each have
an exterior surface;
 and wherein said shaft segment stop means comprises:
a first extension stop structure fastened to the interior surface
of said proximal shaft segment, said first extension stop structure
being sized such that said intermediate shaft segment fits
slidingly adjacent said first extension stop structure and
telescopingly within said proximal shaft segment; a second

extension stop structure fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment, said second extension stop structure being sized such that said distal shaft segment fits slidably adjacent said second extension stop structure and telescopically within said intermediate shaft segment; a first retraction stop structure fastened to the interior surface of said proximal shaft segment; a second retraction stop structure fastened to the interior surface of said intermediate shaft segment; and a first dual abutment structure fastened to the exterior surface of said intermediate shaft segment and sized such that said proximal shaft segment fits slidably around and over said second dual abutment structure; a second dual abutment structure fastened to the exterior surface of said distal shaft segment and sized such that said intermediate shaft segment fits slidably around and over said first dual abutment structure; such that said first retraction stop structure abuts said first dual abutment structure and said second retraction stop structure simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment structure upon full telescopic retraction of said shaft, and such that said first extension stop structure abuts said first dual abutment structure and said second extension stop structure simultaneously abuts said second dual abutment structure upon full telescopic extension of said shaft; wherein said first and second retraction stop structures and said first and second dual abutment structures comprise relative rotation stop means preventing relative axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached.

REMARKS:

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

The specification was objected to because on page 5 at line 2 the word "diam ter" was found to be missing a letter, and on page 6 at line 1 the word "th " was found to be missing a letter. Applicant has a photocopy of the application as filed and these letters are not missing. These omissions probably resulted from an error in scanning the documents in the Patent Office.

Claim 4 was objected to because in line 26 the word "diam ter" was found to be missing a letter. Once again, applicant has checked a photocopy of the application as filed and this letter is not missing.

Applicant is concerned that there might be a logistics or rule problem with correcting typographical errors in the application which were not present when filed. However, should the examiner prefer that these corrections be submitted anyway, applicant will gladly comply.

Claims 5, 7, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 112 as being indefinite. In claim 5 at lines 6-9, the location of the stop collars was found to be confusing. Claim 5 is canceled. In claim 7 at lines 1-4 and in claim 12 at lines 6-9, and in claim 14 at lines 1-4 wording revisions as suggested have been made.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 102(b) as being anticipated by Ehrich. Claim 3 was rejected under 35

U.S.C. section 102(b) as being anticipated by Divnick. Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrich in view of Findlay. Claims 3-5 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ehrich in view of Arkin.

Claims 7 and 14 were found to be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections under 35 U.S.C. section 112. Claims 6, 8-9, 13 and 15-16 were objected to as being dependent on rejected base claims but found to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 6 is thus rewritten, and claims 7, 8, 9 and 10 depend from amended claim 6, and thus claims 6-10 are believed to be allowable.

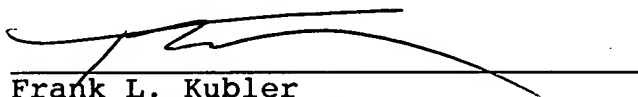
Claim 11 is amended to include the limitation that "said first and second retraction stop collars and said first and second dual abutment collars comprise relative rotation stop means preventing relative axial rotation of the respective shaft segments to which they are attached". Thus rotation prevention means on abutment collars are recited without a specific recitation of locking projections as set forth in allowable claim 6. New claim 17 more broadly recites the stop means and abutment means and also recites rotation stop means. Ehrich does not include any anti-rotation means functioning in its retracted mode, and must provide mutual shaft segment rotation in its extended mode to permit screwing and unscrewing the threads 26 and 30 together. The other cited references do not appear to disclose abutment collars having

this feature either. Thus claim 11 and claims 12-16 depending therefrom and new claim 17 are believed to be patentably distinguished from the cited art.

In view of the foregoing considerations, it is respectfully urged that each of claims 6-10 and 11-16 as amended and new claim 17 should be allowed. Such action is respectfully requested. A check for the added independent claim fee is enclosed.

If there are any reservations about allowing these claims, a telephone interview is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: December 15, 2004.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on the 15th day of December, 2004.

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